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QUOTATIONS

A LABORATORY FOR EUGENICS

WE publish this morning, and commend heartily to our readers, a very cogent appeal issued by the Francis Galton Laboratory Committee with the approval of the senate of the University of London, and signed by Lord Rosebery, the chancellor, Sir William Collins, the vice-chancellor, Sir Edward Busk, the chairman of convocation, Dr. Miers, the principal, and other members of the committee, asking for contributions towards a sum of £15,000 which is required in order to build the Galton Laboratory for eugenics. It will be remembered that the late Sir Francis Galton bequeathed the residue of his estate, amounting to about £45,000, to the university for the purpose of encouraging the study of National Eugenics, and that he expressed his hope that the university would see fit to preserve the capital wholly or almost wholly intact, not encroaching materially upon it for cost of building, fittings or library. This wish has been strictly respected, and the work of Professor Karl Pearson and his assistants has been conducted under great disadvantages in rooms wholly unsuited for the purpose, although with a vigor and efficiency of which ample evidence has been afforded by some of the controversies to which it has already given origin. The scheme now put forward on the part of the committee would provide a building adequate at least for present needs, on land given for the purpose by the university, and would provide for the safe stowage and the ready accessibility of the numerous pedigrees and other records which are being accumulated in excess of the power of examining and applying them. The committee point out in their appeal that future legislation is likely to deal largely with social problems, and declare it to be essential that the statistical facts on which such legislation may be based shall be analyzed in a purely scientific manner by workers who can give time and energy to investigation, quite independently of any ulterior end or party bias; and they are able to declare that a wide interpretation has already been placed upon Sir Francis Galton's recorded wish that the laboratory "should provide information, under

appropriate restrictions, to private individuals and to public authorities." They tell us that they are at present in possession of material, received from educational and health authorities in all parts of the country, which alone would afford three or four years of continuous labor for the existing staff, and the bulk of which has direct bearing upon the most important social and national problems of the day.—*London Times*.

SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

Hygiene and Public Health. By LOUIS C. PARKES, M.D., D.P.H., and HENRY R. KENWOOD, M.B., F.R.S. Edinburgh, D.P.H. London. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co. 1911. 8vo. Pp. 691. Fourth edition with 86 illustrations.

The fourth edition under the conjoint authorship of this work which had previously run through five editions has been carefully revised and brought up to date and will meet the needs of the practitioner and student in a most satisfactory manner. The book contains thirteen chapters, and treats in a very comprehensive manner the following subjects: (1) Water, (2) The Collection, Removal and Disposal of Excretal and other Refuse, (3) Air and Ventilation, (4) Warming and Lighting, (5) Soils and Building Sites, (6) Climate and Meteorology, (7) Exercise and Clothing, (8) Food, Beverages and Condiments, (9) The Contagia-Communicable Diseases and their Prevention—Hospitals, (10) School Hygiene, (11) Disinfection, (12) Statistics, (13) Sanitary Law and Administration.

In the chapter on Water we note with approval the authors' comments on "domestic filters, which are probably more often a source of pollution of the water than otherwise. It is usually considered that a filter requires no attention; it is consequently but rarely cleaned; the filtering material is seldom renewed and its pores become clogged with putrescible organic matter, which form a suitable nidus for the growth and development of living organisms which contaminate the filtered water. It is not unusual under such circumstances to find a considerably larger proportion of organic matter in the filtered